

THE CHILHOWEE ECHO

Mrs. W. C. Tatom and Mrs. Samuel McKinney.

RATES.

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KNOXVILLE, DECEMBER 23, 1900.

Announcement.

On account of the holidays, we have decided to issue no Echo next week. This makes the fourth issue for this month—the usual number of monthly issues. No advertiser loses a number, nor will readers, as no charges were made for the first number. The first issue was Oct. 28th, and this is the ninth issue. Wishing all our patrons a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, we will greet them again on January 6th, 1901.

McCALL'S Magazine, published at New York, is one of the best and most reliable of the numerous publications devoted to woman and her needs. The fashions, home literature, household hints, fancy work, current topics and popular fiction—all bear the mark of a master hand and its low price, 50 cents per annum, should place it in every family.

THE Century for December has for a frontispiece a study of a Madonna by Loeb. It may be interesting to Knoxvilleans to know that the setting of the picture, the bleak hillside, was suggested by or rather taken from the old Mabry hill in East Knoxville. Mr. Loeb fixing it in his memory while driving past last summer with some local artists.

ONE is impressed as one grows older, with the conviction that this is a good world. The good in humanity far outweighs the evil. It is just a bad habit, this of pronouncing the world bad, of denouncing human nature as sordid and evil thinking and ill feeling. It is when sorrow and trial come that the garment of selfishness and indifference drops away, and the white soul of kindness and charity shines through.

We present our readers this week with two articles written specially for this paper by two very prominent men. The first, "An Idyl of a Dream," by Mr. Leon Edward Craig, an author who though young has made his mark in the literary world, and the other, "A Christmas German," by Harris Dickson, author of "The Black Wolf Breed." Both have promised further contributions to these columns.

THE women of Knoxville never tire of doing good. After the strain and actual labor of the Christmas Bazaar one might suppose the Hospital and Building Boards would feel like resting on their well earned laurels. But no. Instead, a beautiful thought came to them and was beautifully carried out. These ladies arranged a Christmas tree Friday, December 22nd, in the Woman's Building, which gladdened the hearts and delighted the eyes of two hundred of the wee ones of God's poor, whom we have with us always. A ticket of admission was furnished each child which insured it a share of the Christmas joys.

THE proper constituents for a Merry Christmas are thus summed up in an ancient book dated a hundred and fifty years ago:—"Good drinks, a blazing fire in the hall, brawn, pudding and souse, and mustard with all, beef, mutton, and pork, shred or minced pies of the best, pig, veal, goose, capon and turkey, cheese, apples and nuts, with jolly carols." In the old days festivities were continually in progress from Christmas Eve until Twelfth Night, by a temporary merry officer known as "The Lord of Misrule," being appointed at the English Court and in the houses of the nobles and country squires, whose sole duty it was to see that the jollity did not flag during the period in question.—McCall's Magazine.

FATHER AND SON.

Brutus, in Nashville Banner.

Every old bachelor has hobbies. But I know only one hobby of which all of them are equally guilty, and that is in assuming to be counselors to their married friends. They really believe that their counsel should be followed, too. They do not wait to be asked for advice, but go out of their way to offer it. If one of the little estrangements inseparable from newly married life causes the husband to manifest his disconsolateness, his bachelor chum besieges him with wise instruction, as though he were a full-fledged dispenser of matrimonial remedies. It always reminds me of a little steam craft trying to tow a man-of-war into harbor.

Yet, I must confess to having played the part of the tug many times myself, but, instead of bringing round the man-of-war, I could get no further than the tug of war.

I recall half a dozen proud and confident attempts of mine to float matrimonial barks that were stranded, but in every instance the efforts were vain, and nothing was accomplished until the

tide of love rose high enough to float the bark again.

When I see other Samaritan bachelors essaying the same unprofitable role, I smile and think to myself that it is like the plans expressed recently by a thousand and one landmen for hauling the Paris off the rocks.

I talked, to-day, with a gentleman now living in St. Louis who brought his bride to Nashville to spend their honeymoon fourteen years ago. That sort of pernicious domestic interference which has grounded many a wedded life kept this devoted couple in turmoil and estrangement for more than two years. Finally, the husband went away; and shortly after was followed by his wife, against the protest of her perverse relatives. He succeeded remarkably well in business ventures and is to-day comparatively a wealthy man. But the best part of it is that he and his wife are thoroughly happy, with three fine children and a luxurious home, where "not a wave of trouble rolls" across their peaceful breasts. He reminded me of my futile efforts in his behalf during his troublous days, and said that my good intentions only entangled the difficulties, like a boy's mischief does a ball of yarn.

My advice to bachelors who can't keep from feeling an interest in married people is to get married themselves, and learn from their own woes before trying to heal the ills of others. What a disgruntled husband wishes from a bachelor friend is not guidance, but a silent, sympathetic ear. He knows perfectly well that the tide will flow in again, and what he desires is simply to talk, till the happy change begins.

I confess to feeling but little interest in marital infelicities, and am particularly averse to listening to the expatiations which most parents indulge in about their children. Now and then, however, there are children out of the ordinary who are worth hearing about. I talked to a gentleman of means to-day who has three of the most promising boys that I know of. They are not prodigies nor models. If they were, I should not mention them—as a prodigy should be overlooked, and a model excused. Precious children and model youths generally get lost in the real race of life.

The three boys referred to are interesting as embodying thoroughly sound minds in perfectly healthy physiques, and on account of mental traits at once unique, incomprehensible and delightful. They see things in the most striking aspects, and, while buoyant with the playfulness and tastes of youth, look into large questions with a clear discernment almost marvelous. I refer to their personality in order that it may attach to what follows concerning their home relationships. This I do because it seems to me that their father has with admirable judgment bound them to him in a truly ideal way—that of comrades, of companionship.

"What has been your method?" I asked him.

"I have used hardly any method in the matter," said he. "Naturally sympathetic with their studies, their plays and their projects, I found myself on easy terms of intimacy with their desires and their ways of looking at things. In this way I became, in a manner, only a slightly older brother to them. I encouraged their confidence, and I think the time has never been since either of them has been old enough to go to school that they have not confided to me everything of moment to them, whether they were happy or hurt, whether they had done right or wrong.

"I don't know whether they are better or worse than other children, only I am satisfied with them as they are, and when I tell you that I have reached a stage of life where every effort and thought of mind are for their present good and their future happiness, you will understand how much it means to say that they satisfy me."

Well, in this companionship, do you talk ever go beyond the hour of the day?" I asked him.

"Yes, decidedly they do. The boys are only one year apart in age, and this, fortunately, relieves me of making any distinction in the advice and suggestions I give them. Only recently it occurred to me that they are old enough to be entitled to know the exact attitude I occupy toward them."

The father then went on to tell me what in an opportune hour he said to them. Neither in song nor story, nor life, have I read or heard parental utterances quite so fine as his. As an old bachelor, but little acquainted with children, his words seemed to me to embody the most fatherly wisdom and the noblest devotion that I have ever encountered. He said:

You have entered the teens close together. I want you to go on through manhood and old age close together. You three hold my affection equally; my efforts in life are equally for you, and what I have you can command on equal terms. And when I am gone, you are to share my means alike. All three may succeed, or two, or only one. All three may fail. So far as my love for you is concerned, this matters not, for that will continue just as it is, through good report and evil too. My hopes are high for each of you—as high as a father's pride can desire. I hate no misgivings, and you fill my life with

happiness, making it cheerful to work for you, and a great comfort to accumulate something with which to carry on your education and to establish you in your careers. If you turn out well, shall best still prouder; but if adversity, disaster, weakness or sin overtake you, you will find me by your side, your comrade, your companion, your father in all things, under all circumstances, to the end of my life. Nothing that you can do will turn me from you. My doors will swing open to you by day or night, whether you come down-hearted or joyous."

It certainly seems to me, if there is any positive way of acquiring controlling influence over a child and of throwing around him a moral support that will be an active force throughout his life, this father found the way. Yet he is one picked out of ten thousand.

So many fathers become engrossed in their business, and give but little time or attention to the development of genuine, intimate companionship with their children. Boys, entering their teens, pass largely from the mother's care, and while her love endures, and indeed, increases, her influence wanes—not in all cases, but in most. It is a fact to be deplored; but nevertheless a fact. If the father

has omitted the development of intimate companionship with his boy, on whom is the youth to depend for counsel and in whom confide, in the early years of his career when he most needs an adviser? His associations are formed haphazard, and are as likely to be bad as they are good. And if bad, it will not be long until the pleasures he finds, become habits, and then he resorts to subterfuge and concealment.

His conscience is sure to reproach him in those early days of evil. He would like to make a clean breast of it and get into better ways. But if he shows such "weakness" to his companions, they will laugh at his qualms, and he is afraid to tell his father, for fear of a flogging or of being turned out of home. So he says nothing and goes on from bad to worse, when he could have been saved as a brand from the burning if he had had a sensible man, instead of a fool for a father.

I wouldn't give a penny for a boy, whose good qualities were flogged into him; nor the twentieth part of a penny for a father whose persuasion is a rod and whose influence is fear.

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